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Controls Over the CIA

✓ Congress created the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947 and has funded it ever since. The CIA has little obligation to tell its parent what it's up to. It has been involved in clandestine activities over the world, sometimes in opposition to the nation's stated foreign policy. It has involved us with unsavory leadership of some nations and in plots that the State Department was never consulted about. It has even misled presidents.

The CIA does report what it thinks advisable — which isn't much — to certain select congressional bodies. But it has no requirement to do more than a perfunctory job of it.

There are now several proposals in the Senate to correct this situation. Sen. Cooper (R-Ky.) would require the CIA to make regular and special reports to select congressional committees, much as the sensitive Atomic Energy Commission does. Sen. Case (R-N. J.) wants to force the CIA to get congressional permission to use funds for aiding foreign troops in Laos and other places. ✓ Sen. McGovern (D-S. D.) wants the CIA's budget to appear as a line item in the general budget instead of being hidden, as it is now, in the budgets of other agencies.

These seem simple and logical controls over a government agency. It is basic to a democratic system that there be such controls.